

Fundamental Rules for the Standard Blissymbolics of Blissymbolics Communication International

Introduction: On January 27, 1983 the Board of Directors of the **Blissymbolics Communication Institute** passed a basic motion for the Development of Blissymbolics. The Board intends to encourage in every possible way the ongoing development of Blissymbolics in keeping with the Fundamental Rules.

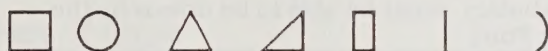
The following shall be the Fundamental Rules of Blissymbolics - a meaning based graphic system:

- I. The BCI standard Blissymbolics system and vocabulary is derived from the work Semantography, original copyright © C. K. Bliss 1949.

II. Graphic aspects of the system:

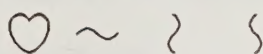
A. Shapes:

1. Blissymbols are derived from standard geometric shapes and segments of these shapes:



These shapes and segments are used in full, half and quarter sizes and in various orientations.

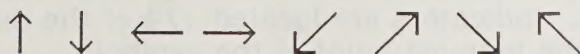
2. Additional shapes:



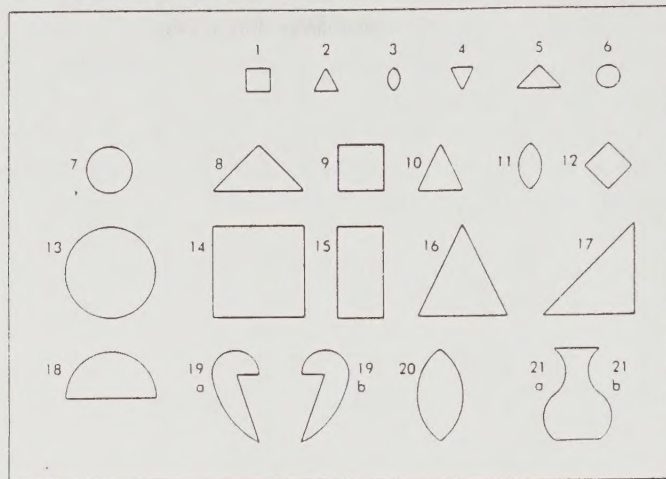
These shapes are used in full size only.

3. International symbols

- a. Arabic numerals: 0 1 2 3 etc.
- b. Punctuation marks: . , ? !
- c. The arrow in various orientations

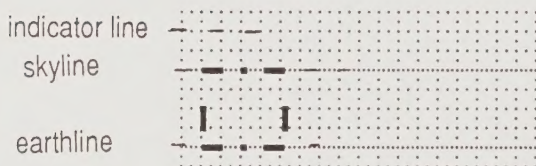


- B. The BCI Template (1980) is used to draw all symbols in the BCI Standard Vocabulary.



A computer font, the **BlissTemplate Font**, was created by Dr. Peter Reich in 1989 to draw all of the symbols in the Standard Vocabulary on any computer which can use this font. This font contains all the (1980) template shapes and can draw them in **most** needed positions and orientations. Until a computer font can draw these established shapes in **all** needed orientations and positions, members of the International Panel on Standards for Blissymbolics have agreed that any new symbol to be added to the Standard Vocabulary must be able to be drawn by the **BlissTemplate Font**.

- C. The matrix for drawing a Blissymbol is a square



1. The square is bounded by the skyline and the earthline.
2. The square can be subdivided into quarters, vertically and horizontally. In the vertical dimension a symbol extends above the skyline: no more than 1/2 of a matrix square, below the skyline: no more than 1/2 of a matrix square.
3. Indicators are located 1/4 of the matrix square above the skyline.
4. In exceptional cases in which a symbol extends above the skyline, indicators are located 1/4 of the matrix square above the topmost point of the symbol.

- 5. Pointers are located 1/8 of a matrix square from the associated symbol.
- 6. The space between components of a compound symbol is 1/4 of a matrix square.

III. Symbol meanings

A. The meaning of a Blissymbol is determined by:

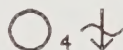
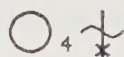
- 1. Configuration
- 2. Size
- 3. Position, in relation to skyline and earthline
- 4. Orientation/Direction
- 5. Distance between graphic parts
- 6. Size of angle
- 7. Positional referents
- 8. Numbers
- 9. Punctuation marks
- 10. Location of pointer
- 11. Indicators
- 12. Special Blissymbols

group of, much, many	more	most opposite meaning	minus, without
×	⌘	⌘	↓
generalization	belongs to, of	intensity	part (of)
⊙	+	!	÷

B. A symbol may represent only one root meaning.

- C. To accommodate geographic, cultural, language and cognitive differences, a root concept may be represented by more than one symbol, i.e. symbol synonyms are permitted providing a rationale for each one is given..For example:

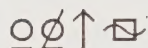
winter (snowy regions) winter (rainy regions)



(Symbol synonym to
accommodate differences
in climate)

ice cream

ice cream cone



(Symbol synonym to accommodate
different cognitive levels)

- D. An established word is associated with each symbol. However synonyms may be substituted for the word associated with a symbol in the Standard Vocabulary. A synonym must be consistent with the meaning represented by the symbol.

strong



other possible synonyms: powerful, vigorous, robust

IV. Vocabulary

A. Content

1. There are approximately 100 simple symbols. Simple symbols are used as components for generating new vocabulary. BCI seeks to keep the number of simple symbols small.
2. Pictographic auxiliary outline symbols

New auxiliary outline symbols may be devised from established template shapes (template 1980) provided the need for the new symbol can be demonstrated to the satisfaction of the Symbol Committee.

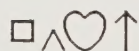
3. Compound symbols

Composition

- a. Simple and auxiliary outline symbols are grouped together to create new meanings.
- b. Graphically, components of compound symbols are:
 - 1) Superimposed:
material

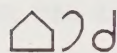


- 2) Sequenced
toy



- a) A compound sequenced symbol is composed of a classifier followed by modifiers. The classifier identifies the meaning category to which the symbol belongs; the modifiers describe or further define a role or function.
- b) Related symbols, those which represent the same concept or are in the same superordinate class, may be substituted as classifiers within compound symbols *as appropriate* in order to make meanings more specific e.g. building, room and public room are all appropriate classifiers to represent hall in concert hall, man and woman are appropriate classifiers to represent person in teacher.

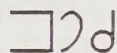
concert hall



teacher



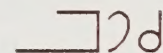
concert hall



teacher



concert hall



teacher



- c) Exceptions when a classifier is not the first component in a compound sequenced symbol: Special Blissymbols which precede the classifier:

group of,
much, many

generalization



more



part (of)



most

opposite
meaningminus
without

B. Grammatical Categories

The various grammatical forms of a symbol are designated by indicators. New grammatical forms of an existing symbol may be created by removing, adding or substituting the indicators listed below:

1. Verbs/action symbols:

action	past action	future action
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^

)

('

present tense	past tense	future tense
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passive	past passive	future passive
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<

<)

<('

present tense	past tense	future tense
---------------	------------	--------------

conditional	past conditional	future conditional
-------------	---------------------	-----------------------

?

?)

?('

present tense	past tense	future tense
---------------	------------	--------------

active

>

2. Modifiers (adjectives and adverbs)

description	description after the fact	description before the fact
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v

v'

v''

3. Nouns

- a. Most nouns carry no indicator
- b. The thing indicator is used to differentiate between abstract and concrete nouns. It is only required when there are two forms of a noun symbol.

thing indicator mind brain

□

⌒

□
⌒

- c. The plural indicator is used to indicate more than one.

plural indicator mind minds

x

⌒

x
⌒

- d. The thing indicator precedes the plural indicator to show plural forms of concrete nouns

brains

□x
⌒

C. Combined Symbols

⊗

Symbols created by a user or instructor for personal use are called combined symbols and are marked by a combine indicator at the beginning and the end of the symbol grouping to call attention to the fact that the symbol is not a part of the Standard Blissymbolics Vocabulary.